



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Cathy Coffman

636-789-3551 ext. 4

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$7,880 TO CALEDONIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Caledonia Fire Department was the setting for a \$7,880 mock check presentation from Gregory C. Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development to Chief Paul Evans of the Caledonia Volunteer Fire Department on November 21, 2005. Community Facility Grant funds will be used to expand and renovate the present fire station to accommodate existing fire trucks and equipment. The Volunteer Fire Department provides coverage to approximately 400 households.

“The Caledonia Volunteer Fire Department is in desperate need of expansion,” said U.S. Senator Jim Talent, a member of the Senate Agriculture committee. “These dollars will assist in constructing additional space for fire trucks and firefighting equipment. I will continue to work in the Senate to provide the resources our local fire departments need to save lives and property.”



1st row Donna Martin, Cathy Coffman, John Lucas, Fire Chief, Paul Evans, Board Member Ralph Strother, Board Member, and Greg Branum, SD

U S Representative Jo Ann Emerson said “In rural Missouri, public safety is a major concern. Luckily, men and women in our communities volunteer for and support our rural firefighters and first responders. This grant is an opportunity to greatly enhance public safety and service in Caledonia. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and Rural Development have done a wonderful job to identify this opportunity and work with local officials to make it a reality.”

Branum said, “To really appreciate the great work performed by volunteer firemen you have to stand side by side during a fire event. I have done that and it certainly helped me to realize how their lives can be in jeopardy each time they leave the comfort of their homes or jobs as they rush to a fire or accident.”

Branum added, “Appreciation is extended to U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for supporting USDA Rural Development. Economic development, the creation of jobs and funding essential services mirror the Agency’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of increasing economic opportunity in rural communities and improving the quality of life of rural residents”.

Anyone seeking additional information on any USDA Rural Development program may visit the website at (<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/>) or by contacting Cathy Coffman, Rural Development Manager, 10820 Hwy 21 Suite 201, Hillsboro, MO, 63050 or calling 636-789-3551.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

***Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director,
Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410***